

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR



HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MOTHER IN SEVEN DAYS

- Day 1 Start a brown rice and broccoli diet, with a small green apple for dessert.
- Day 2 Clean your apartment. Stay on your diet.
- Day 3 Continue cleaning and dieting and call up your stupid boyfriend and tell him you don't ever want to see him again ever.
- Day 4 Look at the Help Wanted ads as you continue cleaning your apartment and dieting and don't pick up when your idiot boyfriend calls—let him leave pleading messages.
- Day 5 Get your hair cut and respond to a Help Wanted ad and continue cleaning and dieting and ignore the boyfriend's pathetic voice mail messages.
- Day 6 Go visit Grandpa at the Good Shepherd Home and report for your job interview in the nice navy-blue suit you found while cleaning your apartment which fits you now that you've lost weight and you get the job because your self-esteem is way up now that you ditched the idiot boyfriend.
- Day 7 Go to church in the morning and call up Grandpa and write a letter to your mother.

Dear Mother,

Sorry I didn't write sooner. Just returned from church after a busy week. Cleaned the apartment (sorry it was a mess when you were here) and looked for a job (think I found one). Only had time to visit Grandpa once but he seems fine. By the way, Tom and I split up. You were right, he's a loser. Got my hair done (picture enclosed). And did I tell you, I've lost three pounds?

Love,
Your Daughter

—GARRISON KEILLOR

A black and white advertisement for "Bubble and Squeak" laundry. The ad features a large circular logo with the text "BUBBLE AND SQUEAK" inside. To the right, it says "Best Laundromat!" and lists services: "Self Service", "Wash-Dry-Fold", "Dry Cleaning", and "Shirt Service". There are several award seals from "ADVOCATE BEST OF NEW HAVEN READERS POLL" for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000, all labeled "First Place". The ad also mentions "Fantastic Washers & The Fastest Dryers" and lists benefits: "Attended", "Spotlessly Clean", and "Parking". At the bottom, it provides two addresses: "130 Park Street (Corner of George Street) New Haven • 776-3450" and "165 Willow Street (Corner of Foster Street) New Haven • 498-8537", along with their operating hours: "Open Everyday 7am - 10pm" and "Open Everyday 6am - 10pm".